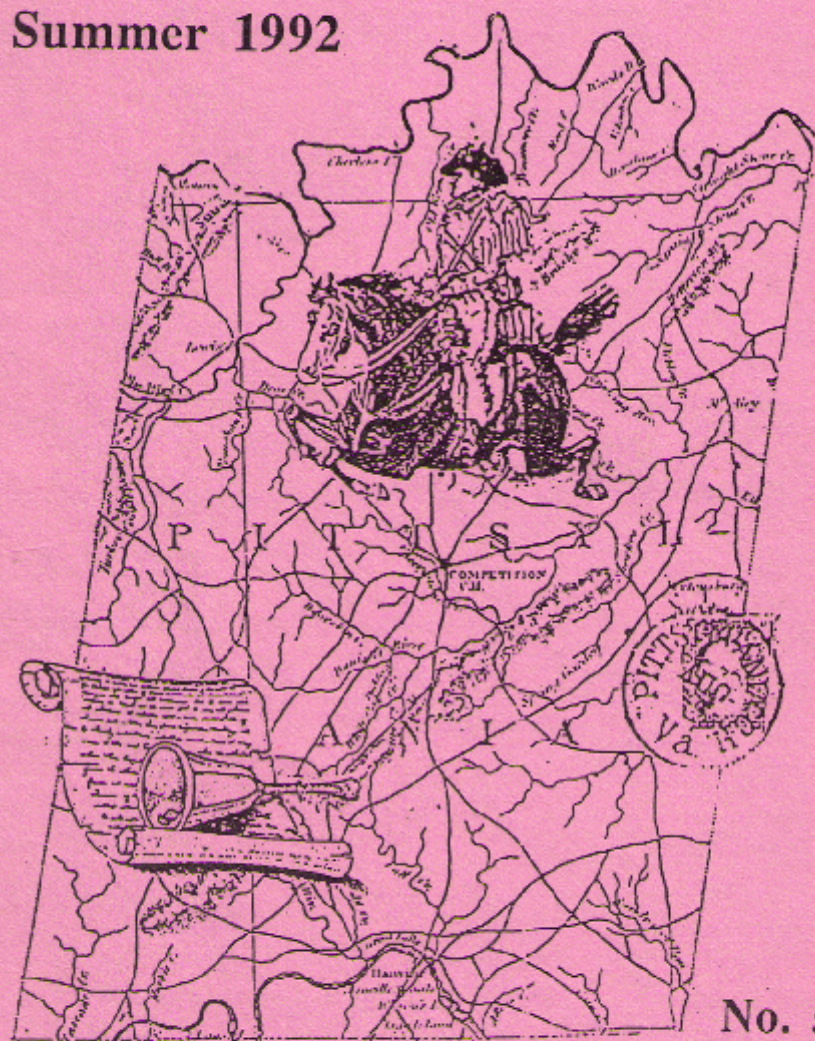


The  
Pittsylvania Packet

## Summer 1992



No. 5

Pittsylvania Historical Society  
Chatham, Virginia



## REPORT BY PHS PRESIDENT

Saturday, July 11, 1992 was a very auspicious occasion for the Pittsylvania Historical Society (PHS) because on that day, a Virginia Historical Highway Marker (obtained by PHS) was dedicated. It commemorates Claude A. Swanson, Pittsylvania County's most illustrious native son, who was a Congressman (1892-1905), Governor of Virginia (1906-1910), U.S. Senator (1910-1933) and Secretary of the U.S. Navy (1935-1939).

The county courthouse courtroom was filled for the special ceremony. Chatham Mayor Joseph Galloway gave the welcome, the PHS President recognized the 21 relatives of Swanson who were special guests.

Ben J. Davenport, Chairman of First Piedmont Corp., introduced Congressman L.F. Payne who made the address, paying tribute to this county's most distinguished native son.

Claude Swanson's two step-grandsons, Charles Hall of Augusta, WV, and Deane Hall of Denver, CO, were present to unveil the large metal marker. Gary Grant, member of the Review Board of Virginia Department of Historic Resources, accepted it for inclusion in the Virginia System of Historical Markers.

Immediately following the dedication, a delightful reception was held at "Eldon," the former home of Claude Swanson, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Lemm, current owners of the historic mansion (see picture on page 3). One of the highlights at the reception was Coleman Mustain playing and singing (with crowd joining in) the 1906 song - "Our Governor Swanson Elect."

The PHS is grateful for the cooperation received from John Salmon and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in helping us to obtain the marker; also for the support from Ray Lacey of the Virginia Department of Transportation for delivering and erecting the marker which is placed on U.S. Route 29, southbound lane just north of the Chatham exit.

The PHS received widespread publicity in connection with the sponsorship of the historical marker from newspaper, radio and television, and especially from Tim Davis and Susan Worley of *The Star-Tribune*, and Adrian O'Conner and Bernard Baker of *The Register & Bee*, Lyle Motley of Gretna Radio WMNA and Tom Dempsey of WSET-TV.

A special thank you is extended to Pittsylvania County School Superintendent Robert Reece and Henry H. Mitchell, former PHS President, for their assistance in preparing the program for the dedication ceremony.

The PHS acknowledges with sincere appreciation the 22 co-sponsors who helped with funding of the highway marker - to make it all possible.

### O'CONNER IS SPEAKER FOR AUGUST 17TH MEETING

We are indeed fortunate to have Adrian O'Conner as our speaker for the PHS meeting on Monday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m.

O'Conner, an author who also is a feature writer for the *Danville Register & Bee*, has won widespread acclaim for his articles dealing with historical events and well-known personages of former years.

O'Conner, an attractive speaker, will recount the interesting story about "Peytonsburg" and tell the details - which you've always wanted to know but didn't know who to ask.

Remember the meeting date - August 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the old 1813 Clerk's Office at Chatham - back of the Town Office.

Home in  
Pittsylvania  
**'ELDON'**



## Through Eyes of Elizabeth Swanson

By Patricia Mitchell

In 1911 Elizabeth Swanson declared, "My heart has been bound up in our summer home, a big tobacco plantation which is ... halfway between Lynchburg and Danville...I find the most repaying joy in farm life and every detail appeals to me -- not only in the homage, which I must pay at the shrine of 'My Lady Nicotine'...but in the details of the barnyard."

In the same Richmond newspaper article (written in Washington by Margaret B. Downing), Mrs. Swanson, wife of U.S. Senator Claude A. Swanson, remarked, "I do not relish being very far from my own hearthstone." She went on to describe Eldon, the country home of the Swanson: "The house on the farm has been recently remodeled. We purchased the property some years ago (1903) and it had already been named 'Eldon' probably for the great English statesman. (The house was originally built in the 1830s by James M. Whittle.) We have added two wings to our home and built a porch which is the most cherished possession we boast. It is 100 feet long and 14 feet wide, and the joy of it during the summer days cannot be told in cold type.

"Our library is another beloved part of our home. It is a colonial room opening out on this porch and is always cool and inviting in summer and just so cozy in the winter. The walls are lined with books..." Mrs. Swanson spoke of her love of reading, saying, "I just skim books during the winter...I live on newspapers and clippings. But in the summer I spend my days...trying new schemes for home making made easy.... china painting, and reading...I like a good love story. I believe in love and happy marriages and the problems so-called find me a very unsympathetic auditor...My husband has been a booklover ever since he learned his alphabet...The only thing which reconciles me to the turmoil of political life is the knowledge that if my husband were not in public life he would be a book-worm, and that would be worse." -- Swanson served as governor of Virginia from 1905-1909, and starting in 1910 served more than four terms as U.S. Senator. He was secretary of the Navy from 1933 until his death in 1939.

Mrs. Swanson went on to describe her role as business manager of the farm, and stated, "I have found tobacco growing a most delightful vocation." She also valued the luxury of having home grown vegetables, eggs, fowl and butter which the couple enjoyed at Eldon and also took to Washington. Mrs. Swanson commented that having farm fresh foods "...is worth the farm, if it were not profitable otherwise."

She also described Eldon's "flowers and vines and trees" as "my pride...I am trying a number of new roses this year..."

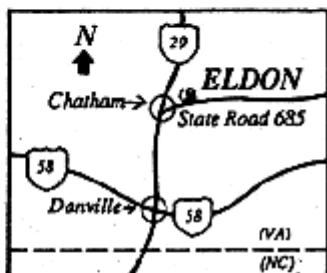
Mrs. Swanson reported on the state of the art water system at Eldon; her love of horses ("I would not be a good Virginian if I did not love a horse," -- although a serious fall had caused her to give up horseback riding); her

interest in raising pigs; the "servant problem" in general, but the tremendous asset of a capable black cook at Eldon who could impart "magic" when baking Virginia hams, "the finest hams in the world."

Elizabeth Swanson was described by the newspaper reporter as "a delightfully sociable woman who discharges all her obligations with the punctiliousness of the gentle Southerner...she is constantly entertaining streams of company..... The home is the paramount issue with the charming chatelaine and she never neglects a single detail for the most pressing social duty." Dinner guests there were treated to the use of quite unique tableware.

"...The china which Mrs. Swanson has herself painted is the most attractive feature of the interior decorations (of Eldon)...The dining room is filled with handsome platters, plates, cups and saucers. The service which the Senator uses for his daily meals came from his wife's clever hands and he cannot relish any home food unless it graces one of her dishes."

The writer goes on to describe the artistic designs created by Mrs. Swanson who "paints in odd hours as other women embroider or sew..." Beautiful pieces of silver and a huge punch bowl were among the unpainted objects "arranged on tables and buffets in the big dining room." In addition to her other activities at that time Mrs. Swanson was regent of the Danville Daughters of the American Revolution, and a member of the Colonial Dames and of the society of the descendants of colonial governors.



Eldon is one mile east of Chatham - just off Route 29

She claimed descent from five governors. Her father, Peter Lyons, had been a Richmond doctor, and her mother had been "a belle at the White Sulphur Springs in antebellum days and nationally known for her beauty." Elizabeth Swanson, herself said to be "one of the most youthful looking matrons in the senatorial set," pointed out that "Women in the South have a powerful influence with their men... I believe that home is the place for woman and that her power is centered there and not in a public career ... Our entire modern system of living needs reforming...And the way to reform it is right in the homes, by making our menfolks happy and comfortable and contented. The more a man appreciates his wife and his home, the better man he is and the better citizens he makes. This sort of reform I sympathize with most cordially, but with no other." Mrs. Claude Swanson helped to make her husband content and influential up until her death in 1920. They had enjoyed 26 years of married life together, spending many sweet hours at Eldon.

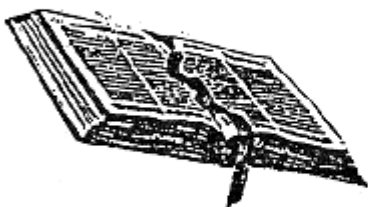
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Yesterday is already a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision, but today, well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope.



# Tracing Family Roots As Done In The Bible

As a genealogical or historical society, you correctly expect that we are persons interested in the generations that came before us. We didn't just pop into existence. We get caught up in our ancestors, and we obviously get a "kick" out of tracing the family tree.



Wonder how long there have been people like us? Do you suppose anyone was interested in genealogies a thousand years ago...or four thousand years ago? Yes, indeed! Some of the ancients kept meticulous records of generations.

One of the oldest books in the world is the Bible. You'll find many pages of family trees in the Old and New Testaments. Remember the records of Abraham and Isaac, Jacob and Joseph? God called Abraham to father a great nation. His son Isaac gave the blessing to Jacob though it rightfully belonged to his twin, Eau, the first-born.

Jacob fathered 12 sons who became the heads of the tribes of Israel. Lots of drama - lots of intrigue - many shenanigans in those chapters in Genesis!

Family trees are not dull. They're composed of real people with all sorts of hang-ups, conflicts, motivations and developments.

Now to the New Testament. On the very first page, the first chapter of Matthew, you find yourself caught up in the family tree of Jesus Christ. It's done in captivation form, in sections of fourteen generations. Fourteen generations from Abraham to David. Fourteen generations from David to the Captivity. Fourteen generations from the Captivity to the birth of Jesus.

So many remarkable insights come from a study of Jesus' family tree. Here are some examples as found in the Bible:

- There are women there. Of course, you say, for we all have mothers as well as fathers. But the unusual thing is that women normally were not included in Jewish pedigrees.

And there are some people who continue to emphasize their father's family while paying little attention to the female lines. Wait a minute! You are descended quite as fully from your mother's family, and your two grandmothers as you are from your father and your grandfathers.

- Then consider which women made the list in the ancestry of Jesus. You'll be surprised and perhaps amazed. Why, there is Rahab, the harlot. That's right...she ran a house of prostitution in Jericho...quite a story there. And there's Ruth, a foreigner. And Bathsheba, the woman David seduced from Uriah, her husband. If Matthew had ransacked the pages of the Old Testament for improbable candidates, he could not have come up with

more incredible ancestors for Jesus Christ!

But isn't it significant that the Bible doesn't gloss over, hide, certain unsavory characters? Family trees are not to be trusted if they omit certain persons who may not come up to values or morals which we prefer. Family trees need to be honest.

Another point to make about Jesus' family tree in Matthew is that there are oodles of unknowns in the list. Try as you will, you won't come up with anything about them. They were not kings. They were just common, ordinary folk. For example, Addi and Arni. Who might they have been? Nobody knows. But they're right there along with King David.

And that says something to us, you know. It really does. In every family tree there are a great many unknowns: quiet, silent, common people who lived and loved, married and had children, worked and died. We could call them "silent people." They just go about their lives making their contribution quietly and effectively.

I thought you might appreciate this introduction to tracing our roots as it is done in the Bible.

(Contributed by Ken Kettlewell)

## My Family Tree

I think that I shall never see  
The finish of my family tree,  
As it forever seems to grow  
From roots that started long ago  
Way back in ancient history times,  
In foreign lands and distant climes;  
From them grew trunk and branching limb  
That dated back to times so dim.  
One seldom knows exactly when  
The parents met and married then,  
Nor when the twigs began to grow  
With odd-named children, row on row.  
Though verse like this made by me,  
The end's in sight, as you can see.  
'Tis not the same with family trees  
That grow and grow through centuries.

By W. Neel Jackson

(Contributed by Patsy Hodge, 518 Williamson Ave., Winslow, AZ 86047)

The only federal copy of the Bill of Rights was stored at the State Department from 1814 to 1838 when it was transferred to the National Archives. However, in August 1814 while the U.S. was again at war with Great Britain, the Bill of Rights and other documents were carried 35 miles west to Leesburg, VA and stored there until the British left Washington.

## Pittsylvania's Hidden Tourist Attraction

Florida has Disney World, eastern Virginia has Colonial Williamsburg, Texas has Southfork Farm, and Pittsylvania County has...well?... would you believe?...the Office of the Clerk of Court in the Courthouse in Chatham! No admission tickets are sold, no official count taken, but our own historical researcher Herman Melton has insisted for years that the Clerk's Office of Pittsylvania County is the hottest tourist attraction in this part of the woods!

Every day one is likely to find a significant number of travelers there, poring over records, hoping to find traces of a forebear. Later, in the evening, these travelers retreat to the rooms of Chatham's five bed-and-breakfast establishments, where they sort and study their new found treasures.

Clerk of Court H.F. Haymore does not have a budget for out-of-state advertising, so how do these visitors find their way to Chatham? Here is one case study.

During the fall of 1991, George and Avenelle Collins of Napoleon, Ohio, wrote the Historical Society for information about her great-grandfather (born 1806) Eproditus Brumfield's parents. A Society officer wrote back reporting no success in a check of Society publications, but sending a reprint from *The Packet* of a list of local genealogical resources. From the list, Mr. and Mrs. Collins contacted professional genealogist Mrs. Lonnie Crosby, who in turn wrote them that the Brumfield line was being researched by descendants Christine (Mrs. Sam) Stone of Altavista and Doris (Mrs. Paul) Cocke of Hurt.

Realizing that prospects were good for obtaining information both from these "long-lost cousins" and from the Clerk's office, Mr. and Mrs. Collins perused a Bed and Breakfast guide and made reservations for accommodations near the courthouse.

In early June, they spent several days in the county, meeting the Stones and Cockes, looking through courthouse records and exploring the ancestral Brumfield home "Aspen Grove" (or "The Elms") on Route 604 near Renan.

Ah, yes, and how do we know this story? At the breakfast table of the Sims-Mitchell House B & B, their host (former Society President Henry Mitchell) recognized the ancestral names the Collinses were discussing. As it turns out, coincidentally, it was he who had responded to their letter last year.

Through the years, numerous Society officers have volunteered for the task responding to genealogical queries which seem sometimes to arrive in bundles! Of especial note are former Society Presidents Neil and Lucille Payne, who have spent untold thousands of hours promoting the Society as well as the genealogical resources of Pittsylvania County and long-time treasurer Mrs. A.H. Overbey.

The tradition continues with the current officers of the organization.

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A family tree is like a living thing, new branches are added often.

# Pittsylvania Minerals...

## *The Jed Hotchkiss Connection*

By Herman Melton

The Battle of Chancellorsville was raging on that morning in early May of 1863 when Jed Hotchkiss, Stonewall Jackson's topographer, entered the following in his diary:

"May 2 - - - I went down to Mr. Welford's where General Stuart had his quarters, and ascertained the roads that led around to the enemy's rear and came back and reported to Generals Lee and Jackson who consulted and examined the map - - -"

The great Stonewall turned to Hotchkiss and questioned him at length. In his usual quiet and careful manner, Hotchkiss, the nation's best topographer, gave the nation's best field general directions on how to get to the enemy's left flank undetected.

The rest is history. Joe Hooker's Yankee soldiers were busy cooking supper at five p.m. when the first of 15,000 rebels stormed across their camp. The rout that followed became the Confederate Army's greatest victory, and Chancellorsville is generally considered to be its high water mark.

The topographer who mapped Stonewall's route to victory was a former Yankee schoolmaster who had adopted Augusta County as his home just prior to the Civil War.

Jedediah Hotchkiss' place in Pittsylvania County history is an interesting and surprising one. In his diary, long considered to be the most important document in Confederate history records, he records on April 10, 1865, that he was in Pittsylvania County C.H. when he received word that Lee had surrendered. Hotchkiss was on his way to Danville to join Lee at the time, and he further records that he camped for the night at a point nine miles south of present day Chatham.

Since there was nothing left to do but go home, Jed Hotchkiss crossed the Staunton River at Anthony's Ford (near the present site of Vista Pointe on Smith Mountain Lake) and trudged homeward to Augusta County.

After the war, Hotchkiss became a "one man chamber of commerce" promoting West Virginia and Virginia far and wide. He published a quarterly titled *THE VIRGINIAS, A MINING, INDUSTRIAL AND SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL* "devoted to the development of Virginia and West Virginia." The publication carried production records of western Virginia's and West Virginia's factories, mines and farms.

From census figures it told its readers how the counties ranked in production of leather during the 1880's. *THE VIRGINIAS* also noted, of course, that Pittsylvania continued to lead in production of tobacco.

Hotchkiss promoted the beeswax industry in Virginia and credited Pittsylvania County as number one in its production during most of the 19th century.

Jed Hotchkiss became one of the South's most respected scientists as his fame became widespread. A signal honor came his way when he was commissioned to exhibit specimens of Virginia's mineral deposits at the



New Orleans Worlds Fair in 1885. Perhaps Jed Hotchkiss noticed the abundance of ore-bearing stones on his route from present day Chatham, via Pittsville, to Anthony's Ford during his sorrowful ride home after Appomattox.

Of the 96 ore samples from Virginia displayed at the New Orleans exposition, there were six, a disproportionately large number, from Pittsylvania County.

Fortunately, for posterity, Jed Hotchkiss was a gracious gentleman who dutifully published the name of the donor and location from which each sample was taken. Some of these may be of interest to THE PACKET readers who could be descendants of the donors.

1) Manganese from property of Mrs. P. Snow, 2 m N of Motley Station P.O.

2) Limonite from Bond and Henderson mine, 1/2 mile W of Motley Station, VA Midland RR

3) Magnetic Iron from Shelborne mine, 1/4 m NW of Pittsville Station F & P RR

4) Barytes from mine of Tonner and Bliss, 1 m W Pittsville RR Station.

5) Barytes from mine near Pittsville.

6) Barytes from Hamner mine, 5 m W Staunton R. Station (probably Town of Hurt) on S bank of Staunton R.) Owner was C.V. Hamner of Leesville, VA. Hotchkiss noted with evident interest that the ore from this mine was "boated" down the Staunton River to the Virginia Midland RR.

Hotchkiss credited a Mr. E. D. Frazier, an employee of the Department of Agriculture, with assistance in collecting the samples.

Yes, Pittsylvania County's minerals were much in evidence at the New Orleans Worlds Fair thanks to its connections to Stonewall Jackson's 'eyes' and scientist extraordinary: Jed Hotchkiss.

### Elizabeth Lyons Swanson (Mrs. Claude A. Swanson)



Jamestown Tributes and Toasts

-Julia Wyatt Bullard-

J.P. Bell and Co., Lynchburg - 1907

*"To Mrs. Swanson -- Most fit dispenser of the hospitality of the Old Dominion, and perfect type of her fair and lovely women.*

*"In the language of Mrs. Donald McLean, The Most accomplished hostess in America."*

*"To Mrs. Swanson -- Governor of Virginia! For all Virginians echo the sentiment of her gallant husband when he says: 'The women rule in Virginia. Mrs. Swanson is Governor of Virginia.'"*

(See related article on page 3)



# New Technology For Heirloom Family Photos

By Henry H. Mitchell

For the past seventeen years, my wife and I have had a "sideline business" of reproducing old family photographs for customers here and across the country (by mail order). When we began the activity (actually it was at the insistence of the late Mrs. Annie Hardy Viccellio, who wanted to distribute her own impressive collection to her descendants), our purpose was to provide hand-processed reproductions on good-quality paper at relatively low cost (as opposed to extensively re-touched, re-colored studio renditions at appropriately higher prices -- our product is more often found in genealogical albums than framed on parlor walls).

During the past couple of years, however, a technological breakthrough has occurred which almost renders our photograph-reproduction service as obsolete as a buggy-whip factory! This new "high-tech" process came to our attention through Tim Hilliard of the Captain Copy print shop in Danville, Virginia, and it involves a Canon color copier.

It is now possible to copy one or several old photos at a time on 8 1/2 x 11, 8 1/2 x 14 or 11 x 17 paper at costs of \$2.50, \$3 or \$5 respectively. (Compare this with our old prices of around \$6.50 for an 8 x 10 photographic print, about \$3 for a 3 1/2 x 5 and -- and a little less for multiple prints.) On the Canon color copier, color balance and intensity are variable, and on single items rectangular cropping is possible.

The process is *digital* -- in other words, using a computer generated screen of tiny "pixels," rather than the light-and-chemical-bath-generated silver halides which produce an *analog* image in photography.

In other words, the family photo album is yet one more place where we see (in the words of Kodak CEO Kay Whitmore) "...a world where silver and silicon converge ... moving from an analog to a digital domain."

Well, what about picture quality? For reproductions about the same size as the original, the color copy is superb -- I would say noticeably better than photography. Both detail and color can be copied precisely. However, if significant enlargement is necessary, the screen of pixels causes "fuzzy" or "blurry" results in comparison to a photographic enlargement (which also has its limits.)

One other concern is longevity of the new print. If long life of the print is a concern, it may be advisable to have the copy made on an acid-free paper (supplied by your printer at a slightly higher price than regular paper.)

All the major office-copier manufacturers now have color modes, but the cost of the machines limits their availability. Check with print shops near you. This new technology may make you think about your genealogical files and family albums in an entirely new way! One example I have seen is for family reunion organizers to combine photos, captions, and family genealogical data on one sheet for distribution to reunion attendees.

## *Delightful Sense Of Humor in Landre's Genealogical Book*

"No Known Candidates for Sainthood" is a most delightful genealogical book (loose-leaf binder) with a real sense of humor and facts.

The author, Lowell Henry Landre, sent a copy to the PHS, saying he considers it to be autobiographical and biographical and a historical effort and a genealogical labor of love for the families and descendants of the Landre - Waszkiewicz.

But it also gives reports on 195 various ancestors and descendants ranging from the "Adams" families down through the "Wood" families, who Landre says "spread their fame and fortunes and progeny throughout the USA and the world."

The book completed March 1992 has 401 pages with a profusion of excellent pictures, sprinkled with an assortment of bright sayings, proverbs and cartoons.

The address of the author is: Lowell Henry Landre, Box 6133421, South Lake Tahoe, California 96152.

He says, "I am more than willing to help others just as I have been so graciously assisted."

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### **TOMBSTONE IN MISSOURI**

Mrs. Lois Johnson of Littleton, Colorado, wrote to tell that she and husband located a cemetery at the Donovan place in Johnson County, Missouri that had the tombstone of her great-great-grandmother Sarah W. Wilkerson Jennings.

(She was the wife of William H. Jennings, who was son of Meredith Jennings (ensign in war of 1812) and Tabitha Mustain, all who were residents of Pittsylvania County, VA in the late 1700 and 1800.)

Sarah's tombstone was carved with her birthplace Pittsylvania County, VA born July 24, 1812, died December 1, 1850.

## **You Have Over A Million Relatives!!**

Next time you're feeling unimportant, try this mathematical calculation on the undebatable fact that it took two people, your parents, to get YOU here.

Each of your parents had two parents, so in the generation just prior to that of your mother and father, there were four people whose pairing off and sharing love contributed to your existence.

Therefore, you are the product of eight great-grandparents, 16 great-great-grandparents, 32 great-great-great grandparents, etc.

Keep on multiplying the number by two. If you figure an average of about 25 years between each generation, you'll discover that only 500 years ago you could probably trace that you would have at least 1,048,586 relatives in your past...all who had a part in the production of YOU!

# Revival Leads To Building Of Payneton Church Century Ago

Payneton United Methodist Church, built in 1892, located in Whittles community five miles north of Chatham, VA, celebrated its 100 years of service on April 26, 1992.

The church history prepared by Emilie Watlington, reveals that two years before the church was built, Pastor John G. Bailey held a revival meeting in a schoolhouse near Whittles, when ten persons "professed the faith."



Celebrating 100 Years

After the meeting, preacher Bailey suggested to Brother William Henry Harrison Cocke that he talk with John H. Payne and the Davis brothers about a site to build a church at Whittles. A building committee was appointed and resulted in erecting a church which was dedicated April 1892.

The name "Payneton" was given the church in recognition of John H. Payne and his sisters, Mary, Katie and Elizabeth, who gave the one acre of land for the site of the church building. No money was paid for the land. John DeMott, contractor of Chatham, along with Jim Haden and Allison Haden did the work.

The church had two front doors. The left door was for men to enter the church, and the right door for the women. The men sat on the left side of the church and women on the right - neither would consider sitting together.

Lighting was provided by brass oil burning chandeliers hung from the ceiling. Heat was by two wood burning stoves on each side, and the first man to arrive at the church would always get the fires started.

The church had a pump organ, and the first organists were Mrs. Chess Shelhorse, Mrs. Joseph Mahan and Emma Haden.

Charter members of the church were Billy Cocke, Richard Cocke, W.H. Bennett, J.T. Bennett, George W. Shelhorse, Clay Haden and J. Frazier Riddle.

In early 1920, the young people of the church bought a piano by raising money to pay for it by selling homemade cakes, cookies, ice cream, etc.

In September 1925 a cyclone hit Whittles and demolished Payneton Church building. Only the piano was not damaged, not even a scratch, but the old pump organ was smashed, and it was told it was last seen sailing away while playing "Home Sweet Home."

The Rev. J.R. Gill was Pastor of Payneton when the storm destroyed the church building. He walked from house to house to solicit funds - and began the construction to rebuild the church on the same site. In 1952, the church made an addition by adding Sunday School rooms.



## From The Book of Estrays - 1777

Robert FOSTER

Taken up on Sycamore Creek a small bright Bay mare with a small Star in her forehead. Black main and Tail, black foot Locks, not Dockt nor Branded about Two years old last Spring, about four feet four Inches and an half high. She is a Trotter.

Robert Foster

We the Subscribers being first Sworn before Crispen SHELTON a Justice of the peace have appraised above Stray mare to L7.0.0 Current money.

John Payne Abraham MOTTLEY Beverly SHELTON

George HUMPHREYS

The Following Stray was brought before me this day by GEORGE HUMPHREYS (VIZ) a bay mare about four feet Seven Inches high a Star in her forehead a middle Sized Bell. Branded on near Shoulder thus ~~FM~~ on off Shoulder and each Buttock thus ~~RH~~. Fifteen years old. Certified under my hand this 18th June 1777.

Robt PAYNE

We the Subscribers have Valued and appraised above Mare to L8.0.0. Given under our hands this 18th June 1777.

James Dix John WYNNE Samuel BYNUM

Arthur FULLER

This Day Arthur FULLER brought before me one Dark Bay mare four feet three Inches high. Branded on near Shoulder ~~E F~~ Seven years old, a small Star in her forehead one off hind feet white, some Saddle Spots, Trots and paces. Given under my hand this 15th Day of August 1777.

Daniel HANKINS

We the Subscribers do appraise above Stray mare to L11.0.0 Current money. Given our hands this 15th Day of August 1777.

John WARREN Zachariah FULLER

James BREWER

Taken up by James BREWER & brought before me a Bright Bay Horse four feet five or Six Inches high, five or Six years old, Branded on near Buttock thus ~~BS~~ a Star in forehead and a white Streek bearing to the right, he has some white Hairs in his main and Tail, some white hairs Just above his near hind hoof, a Natural pacer. Given under my hand this 12th Day of August 1777.

James ROBERTS

We the Subscribers being first Sworn before a Justice of the peace appraise above Stray Horse to L15.0.0 Current Money. Given under our hand this 12th Day of Augt. 1777.

William ROBERTS Abraham AARON James DEVIN

*Contributed by Lucille and Neil Payne, former editors of "The Quill Pen."*

### THANKS TO THE DAY

Pittsylvania Historical Society thanks Douglas Williams, Commander of Pittsylvania Chapter No. 55 of the Disabled American Veterans, for a large silk American flag. It will be flown from the PHS flag pole in front of the 1813 Clerk's Office.

## August 1992 Queries

(Free to members to aid others with similar interests.)

Who is JENNY? Who is Jesse MUSTAIN and is mentioned in Thomas MUSTAIN's will of Feb. 20, 1792 in Pittsylvania Co.? She is the mother of Tabitha MUSTAIN who m. Meredith JENNINGS Dec. 14, 1807 in Pittsylvania Co. I will cooperate with all researchers on the MUSTAIN-JENNINGS lines. Write Lois JOHNSON, 7887 S. Forest St., Littleton, CO 80122.

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Seeking information on parents of Thomas MUSTAIN, an early settler whose son, AVERY, fought in American Revolution. I also need information about children of Daniel PROSIZE, another Revolutionary War veteran. Write to Dr. Timothy KEESEE, 27 Blythewood Dr., Greenville, SC 29607.

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Seeking information on Philip Lock ELLIOTT and wife SARAH. They moved from Maryland about 1767. He died in Pittsylvania County in 1777. Children were JAMES, THOMAS, JOSHUA, RUTH, SARAH ANN, JESSE AND SIMON. Where was he buried? birth date? Give any information on his Maryland family. Write: Joseph E. ELLIOTT, 851 Springfield Ave., Apt. 18B, Summit, NJ 07901.

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MURPHY-NORTON. Seeking information on children of Elizabeth (MURPHY) NORTON, d. 1821, survived by children - WILLIAM D., HENRY W., AND NICHOLAS P. NORTON. She was daughter of ABIGAIL (CAHILL) and William D. MURPHY who married in Pittsylvania Co., 1786. Write: Patricia Lee MURPHY, 320 W. Lakeview St., Apt. 111, Orlando, FL 32804.

\*\*\*\*\*

Seeking information about John HUTCHINGS, son of Christopher HUTCHINGS. John died 1776. Seek name of unborn child mentioned in John's will. Who was guardian of children, THOMAS, CHRISTOPHER, ELIZABETH AND JOHN? Need proof that John HUTCHINGS, who was b. Jan. 6, 1772 in VA and m. Polly MINOR in Mercer Co., KY 1798 is the JOHN mentioned in 1776 will. I will pay cost of copies and postage. Write: Mrs. Harold E. MILLER, 1684 Fifth Road, Inverness, IL 60067-4643.

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Seeking information on likely parents of Presley THORNTON, first shown in Pittsylvania Co. deed book 7, page 111, deed made June 2, 1782. Several deeds later showed he probably lived on or near Mountain Run Creek near Cascade. Presley THORNTON made will on Jan. 2, 1812 and probated May 15, 1815 in Pittsylvania Co. He likely came to Pittsylvania Co. from Orange Co. Appreciate any facts or speculations on his origins. Write: Richard THORNTON FOX, 2412 Sterling Point Drive, Portsmouth, VA 23703.

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Need information on a Pleasant FARMER 1795-1855 of Halifax County, VA and wife Mary MANN FARMER 1805-? (born in Chesterfield County, VA). She remarried October 1856 to Philip JOHNSON GILLILAND of Halifax County and apparently they died in Halifax County. Write: Robert B. HITCHINGS, 519 Oak Grove Road, Norfolk, VA 23505.

### MEMBERS WRITE LETTERS

My father, Thad Patterson (who is deceased), was an avid member of the Pittsylvania Historical Society. We want to continue membership in the PHIS. Put it in my mother's name of Margaret Patterson, Box 1295, Seagraves, TX 79359.

Thanks for the reminder about our dues in the Pittsylvania Historical Society. I always needed a push to get it in on time. I enjoy being a member so much. Margaret Dempsey, 3410 Milam St., Amarillo, TX 79109.

Here's my renewal. I can't live without it. I enjoy *The Packet*. It's great. Mrs. Rose Lee R. Calame, 2017 Singing Brook, Austin, TX 78723.

Enclosed is my membership renewal dues in the PHS. I thoroughly enjoy *The Packet*. Perry Mitchell, Richmond, VA.

I want to become a member of the PHS. I will be glad to correspond with anyone having an interest in Thornton related families up to 1830 in VA. Richard T. Fox, 2412 Sterline Point Drive, Portsmouth, VA 23703.

Enclosed is a check for 1992-93. What a bargain. I really enjoy *The Packet*, which is well edited and informative, also highly entertaining. If I could get all the Sheltons of Pittsylvania County (my mother's family) on one nice neat chart... Ken Mitchell, 111 Hempstead Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23188.

You have an interesting publication, and I truly enjoy receiving it. Lois M. Johnson, 7887 S. Forest St., Littleton, CO 80122.

Thanks, you have been most cooperative and helpful, and I appreciate it. Keep up the good work on *The Packet*. Robert Hunt, 105 Coral Reef Drive, Goose Creek, SC 29445.

### SPEAKING OF OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

Martinsville photographer Desmond J. Kendrick has for some time been collecting and maintaining a file of historical portraits of members of early families of Pittsylvania and Henry Counties and photographs of their homes. He welcomes inquiries at 111 Fairy Street, Martinsville, VA 24112 (703-632-1101).

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**"THE PACKET" -- Published by the**

**PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Box 1206 -- Chatham, Virginia -- Phone (804) 432-5031**

**Preston B. Moses, President & Editor of "The Packet"**

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THE PACKET is the quarterly publication of the Pittsylvania Historical Society for members and those who are interested in the history of their families and the area in which they lived.

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